

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 044528

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ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY NEA:ALATHERTON, JR./HLK
APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY (PER SECTO 4145)
S/S :CABORG

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O 242333Z FEB 76 ZFF6
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TUNIS NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 044528

EXDIS HANDLE AS NODIS - FOR AMBASSADOR FROM THE SECRETARY

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: OVIP (ATHERTON, ALFRED L., JR.) MO, AG

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE ATHERTON VISIT TO TUNIS

1. MOROCCANS HAVE ASKED THAT ATHERTON VISIT MOROCCO AFTER HIS VISIT TO ALGERIA, AND HE IS PRESENTLY REVISING HIS ITINERARY TO TRAVEL FROM ALGERIA TO MOROCCO EVENING OF MONDAY, MARCH 1. THIS OPENS UP POSSIBILITY OF HIS ALSO VISITING TUNISIA IF GOT WISHES, LEAVING WASHINGTON AFTERNOON OF WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, ARRIVING TUNIS LATE MORNING FEBRUARY 26 AND DEPARTING TUNIS AFTERNOON SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28, FOR 3:00PM ARRIVAL IN ALGIERS. YOU SHOULD THEREFORE URGENTLY APPROACH GOT ALONG FOLLOWING LINES:

A. SINCE NOTIFYING YOU OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON'S PLANNED VISIT TO ALGERIA AND MOROCCO, THERE HAVE BEEN CHANGES IN HIS SCHEDULE WHICH WOULD MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR HIM TO ALSO VISIT TUNIS PRIOR TO HIS OTHER TWO STOPS. THIS WOULD PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR ONE OF OUR PERIODIC EXCHANGES OF VIEWS WITH GOT, WHICH WE HIGHLY VALUE, ON
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MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST INCLUDING BILATERAL RELATIONS,

THE STATUS OF OUR MIDDLE EAST PEACEMAKING EFFORTS, AND
REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS SUCH AS THE SAHARA SITUATION.

0. IF A VISIT AT THIS TIME WOULD BE AGREEABLE AND CON-
VENIENT FOR THE TUNISIAN GOVERNMENT, SECRETARY KISSINGER
WOULD BE PLEASED TO ASK MR. ATHERTON TO MAKE SUCH A
VISIT.

2. WE OBVIOUSLY NEED URGENT REPLY SO THAT ATHERTON CAN
FINALIZE HIS TRAVEL PLANS. PLEASE TELL GOT WE REGRET
THIS SHORT NOTICE AND MAKE CLEAR THAT WE ARE NOT
PRESSING THEM; DECISION IS OF COURSE ENTIRELY UP TO GOT.
SHOULD TUNISIANS BE AGREEABLE TO ATHERTON VISIT, OUR
INFORMATION IS THAT HE COULD ARRIVE TUNIS VIA AIR FRANCE
FROM PARIS AT 11:15AM THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, AND DEPART
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28 VIA SYRIAN/IRAQ AIRLINES 355 AT
2:55PM. WOULD APPRECIATE CONFIRMATION THAT THIS FLIGHT
IS CURRENTLY RUNNING OR SUGGESTIONS AS TO POSSIBLE
ALTERNATIVES.

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